North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee Minutes June 13, 2013

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on June 13, 2013, in the conference room on the third floor of the Cultural Resources Building (formerly the Archives and History/State Library Building), 109 East Jones Street, in downtown Raleigh. Committee members in attendance were: Mr. B. Perry Morrison Jr., chairman, Mrs. Millie Barbee, Mr. David R. Black, Mr. George W. Edwards, Ms. Wendy Grady, Mr. John Larson, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, and Dr. Linda F. Stine. Committee members Dr. Edmond Boudreaux and Dr. Valerie A. Johnson were absent.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Claudia Brown, Survey and National Register Branch supervisor; Jessica Dockery, National Register and survey specialist; Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, National Register assistant; Andrew Edmonds, GIS specialist; Chandrea Burch, file and photography clerk; Anna Grantham, assistant file and photography clerk; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; Annie McDonald, preservation specialist, Western Office; Mitch Wilds, Restoration Services Branch supervisor; Paul Fomberg, senior restoration specialist; Tim Simmons, senior staff architect; David Christenbury, staff architect; Justin Kockritz, environmental review specialist; and intern Katy Liang.

Visitors in attendance were state archaeologist Steve Claggett; Lea Abbott, National Register coordinator for the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology; and Carolyn Booth, Michael Booth, and consultant Jennifer Martin Mitchell in support of the Penderlea Historic District National Register nomination.

Mr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. with welcoming comments. He noted that there was a quorum despite the fact that attendance was lower than usual, in part to the fact that Dr. Cashion and Mrs. Snowden's membership ended when their terms on the North Carolina Historical Commission (NCHC) ended in March and Gov. McCrory did not re-appoint them to the Commission. Mr. Morrison also noted that with the end of his third consecutive NRAC term on June 30, 2013, a total of three new members would be appointed from the NCHC. He also announced that state historic preservation officer Kevin Cherry, deputy state historic preservation officer Ramona Bartos, and National Register coordinator Ann Swallow were excused from today's meeting due to unavoidable travel conflicts and, in the case of Ms. Swallow, attendance at a professional conference, and that Survey and National Register Branch supervisor Claudia Brown would give reports and present nominations on their behalf.

Mr. Morrison then reviewed the committee's conflict-of-interest policy. Mr. Edwards inquired if his membership on the Orton Committee would constitute a conflict of interest regarding review of the Orton Plantation Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation nomination. Mr. Morrison replied that he believed that membership in a friends group with no ownership interest in the property does not constitute a conflict of interest.

Mr. Morrison then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2013, NRAC meeting. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Barbee and seconded by Mr. Edwards, all voted to approve the minutes as written.

Mr. Morrison recognized Ms. Brown, who began her report on behalf of Dr. Cherry and Ms. Bartos by commenting that a total of four members of the North Carolina Historical Commission (Dr. Cashion, Paul Escott, Freddy Parker, and Mrs. Snowden) whose terms expired on March 31, 2013, were not re-appointed and new appointees have not been announced.

Regarding budgetary matters, Ms. Brown noted that numerous versions of a fiscal year 2014 state budget have been introduced and that HPO funding is level in all versions, in contrast to funding for the Arts Council for which severe cuts have been proposed. She went on to report that the ramification of state tax reform on the state historic rehabilitation tax credits, including the proposed acceleration of the credits' current January 1, 2015, sunset to January 1, 2014, have garnered much attention as well as concern that the unknown fate of the sunset is creating instability in the redevelopment market. Ms. Brown added that the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) was allowed to introduce a bill (H 394) to do away with the sunset completely and that the DCR legislative liaison, Martha Jenkins, has been asking for support among legislators. Ms. Brown said that HPO staff is prohibited from lobbying but has assembled persuasive materials in support of the credits that Ms. Jenkins will provide, upon receipt of an emailed public records request, to citizens wishing to engage their elected representatives. Ms. Brown said that the future of the state rehabilitation tax credit program will become clearer in the next few weeks as the legislature works to finalize the state budget.

Ms. Brown then reported on highlights of HPO activity during the past four months:

- Mitch Wilds and Renee Gledhill-Earley have provided consultation to facilitate
 improvements to the Executive Mansion and the Lieutenant Governor's offices at the
 Hawkins-Hartness House while respecting the historic fabric of the buildings. Members of
 the HPO staff attended a "grand re-opening" of the Hawkins-Hartness House and were
 personally greeted and thanked by Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest, who has a personal
 interest in historic architecture.
- In April, Dr. Cherry, Ramona Bartos, and LeRae Umfleet when to Philadelphia to attend the east coast Heritage Emergency National Task Force Partnership Forum, the overarching goal of which was to discuss ways to incorporate cultural resources in statewide emergency management plans. Their attendance has fostered a new dialogue with NC Emergency Management with hopes of more comprehensively integrating cultural and historical resources in statewide disaster response, recovery, and mitigation plans. HPO staff member Renee Gledhill-Earley is also becoming involved in this initiative.
- Mount Airy has submitted an application to earn Certified Local Government (CLG) status; if successful, they would be North Carolina's forty-seventh CLG community.
- Three new applications for Natural Heritage Trust Fund grants have been submitted:
 - to acquire approximately 90 acres at Bentonville Battlefield in collaboration with the Civil War Trust;
 - to secure a conservation easement over the core of Gilbert Town in Rutherford County, including the Overmountain Victory Trail site at Ferguson's Ridge; and

- o to secure a conservation easement over part of Glassy Mountain overlooking the Carl Sandberg Home in Flat Rock.
- The Natural Heritage Trust Fund is proposed to be reconstituted or done away with by various proposals embedded within state budget proposals under consideration. Its proposed successor entity apparently would still have properties with cultural and/or historic significance as eligible for state acquisition.
- Rehabilitation of the Asheboro Hosiery/Cranford Furniture Mill as residential rental that
 includes affordable housing, a tax credit project with \$11 million in private investment,
 has been completed and will have its grand opening on June 19.
- The kick-off for the *Queen Anne's Revenge* dive season was televised live to students across North Carolina and other states. Steve Claggett added that the effort was very effective, reaching 250 schools and as many as 11,000 students.

Ms. Brown concluded by reporting that in late May, the National Park Service approved the HPO's 2013-2022 State Historic Preservation Plan: Legacy – A Gift from the Past for a Better Tomorrow. She said that a staff retreat to start planning for implementation and outreach to put the plan's goals and objectives into action will be scheduled soon.

Ms. Brown then recognized Tim Simmons, who introduced Restoration Services Branch intern Katy Liang, a graduate student in the College of Design at North Carolina State University. Ms. Brown reported that former intern Laurie Jackson, another College of Design graduate student, completed her studies and has been hired as an architect by Maurer Architecture in Raleigh.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with a presentation by Annie McDonald of two nominations for western properties (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Leimenstoll asked if the bathroom in the Bruce A. and June L. Elmore Lustron House in Asheville is original. Ms. McDonald replied that the built-ins are original but the faux-marble finish on the walls is a recent addition. Ms. Leimenstoll also asked how many of the 3,000 Lustron houses are in North Carolina. Ms. Brown replied that she maintains a list of the Lustron houses in the state and believes the number is between thirty and forty. Mr. Edwards added that George Smart maintains information on North Carolina Lustron houses on his web site, Triangle Modernist Houses. Mr. Black asked how many of the state's Lustron houses are as intact as the Elmore House. Ms. Brown replied that she could not give a precise figure but was certain that the Asheville house is unusual for its high level of integrity. Regarding the Hudson Manufacturing Company in Hudson, Mr. Morrison commented on the variety of interior supports and asked if any of the supports are replacements. Ms. McDonald responded that all of the supports are original and made of wood. Upon a motion made by Mr. Black and seconded by Ms. Leimenstoll, all voted to approve the two nominations.

Ms. Brown then presented four nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Leimenstoll asked for clarification of the boundaries of the Star Historic District in Montgomery County, which Ms. Brown provided. Mr. Larson commented on the 1966 end of the period of significance of the Whisnant Hosiery Mill in Hickory, made without a claim of exceptional significance under Criteria Consideration G, and asked why the period of significance of the Eureka Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill in Lincolnton ends in 1963 if production there ended just three years later,

in 1966. Ms. Brown replied that she was not certain about the reason for the end dates of the respective periods of significance but thought that the expansion of the Whisnant Mill in 1966 justified its end date whereas the history of the Eureka mill in the few years after 1963 was of no particular significance and did not entail any physical growth of the building. Discussion regarding the end of the period of significance for the Eureka mill continued, with several members of the committee contending that the fact that the mill ceased production in 1966 justified ending the period of significance in that year. Ms. Brown stated that she understood this argument and would explore the feasibility of ending the Eureka mill's period of significance in 1966.

Mr. Morrison stated that he found the nomination for the Penderlea Historic District to be an excellent document. In response, Ms. Brown introduced consultant Jennifer Martin Mitchell, who prepared the nomination, and Carolyn Booth, president of the Penderlea Homestead Museum, Inc., which sponsored the nomination. Ms. Booth expressed her appreciation for the HPO's assistance throughout the museum's survey and nomination project.

Mr. Larson put forth a motion to approve the four nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions with the request that the period of significance of the Eureka Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill be extended to 1966 if this revision complies with National Register guidelines. Ms. Grady seconded the motion and all voted for it.

Jessica Dockery and Lea Abbott presented a nomination for the Orton Plantation Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation in Brunswick County. In the course of the presentation, Mr. Morrison asked Mr. Edwards for clarification of the current property owner's aims regarding development of the acreage. Mr. Edwards confirmed that the owner intends to return most of the property to its nineteenth-century appearance by restoring the longleaf pine forest and removing most of the flowering shrubs near the house.

Discussion ensued following the end of the presentation. Mr. Black asked Mr. Abbott how far under water the lighthouse remains are located. Mr. Abbott replied that he did not recall the distance and said that most likely they are under water due to shoreline erosion, which is affected by dredging of the Cape Fear River channel. Mr. Claggett added that the area in which the lighthouse remains are located is still fairly shallow. Dr. Stine asked about the date of the African American village at Orton, to which Ms. Dockery responded that most of the structures were built in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; by ca. 1850, there were at least 144 African Americans on the plantation, but most of their original structures were removed or destroyed after the Civil War, Dr. Stine pointed out that due to the removal of those resources, the subsurface remains of the village are very important and in a relatively pristine archaeological context. Mr. Morrison asked if Kendall Plantation, north of the nominated area, was part of Orton Plantation. Ms. Dockery explained that the three contiguous plantations of Orton, Kendall, and Lilliput, all now owned by one individual, historically were owned by a single family, but all that remains of Kendall and Lilliput are archaeological resources and that there is too much intervening acreage without identified cultural resources to include the remains of Kendall and Lilliput in the Orton Plantation boundary expansion nomination. Mrs. Barbee made a motion to approve the nomination, Ms. Leimenstoll seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dockery then presented a nomination for the Moore County Hunt Lands and Mile-Away Farms near Southern Pines. After the presentation, Mr. Edwards asked if there are any

conservation easements on the property. Ms. Dockery replied that she believes easements exist. Upon a motion made by Dr. Stine and seconded by Mr. Edwards, all voted to approve the nomination.

Ms. Brown announced that she would like to take a few minutes to recognize Mr. Morrison's service on the NRAC, noting that his rotation off the committee after serving three consecutive terms also occurred once before, in 2004. After a brief ceremony that included Ms. Brown's presentation of a gift from, the committee recessed for lunch.

When the committee reconvened, consideration of Study List applications began with a presentation by Ms. Dockery of applications for four properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda). Following the presentation, discussion ensued regarding the aluminum siding and manufactured stone applied to much of the exterior of Oneida Cotton Mills in Graham. Mrs. Barbee moved for placement of the four properties on the Study List with the stipulation that the notification letter to the owner of Oneida Cotton Mills specify that the later sheathing must be removed before a nomination for the textile complex can be approved. Mr. Black seconded the motion and all voted for it.

Ms. Brown presented three Study List applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda). In the course of the presentation, she noted that staff recommended approval of the three properties with acknowledgement that additional research is necessary to prepare successful nominations for the Robertson Boarding House in Union Grove and Shady Grove Baptist Church in East Spencer. Mrs. Barbee made a motion to accept staff recommendations for the three properties and Mr. Larson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. McDonald presented two Study List applications for properties in the western region (see attached agenda). Upon a motion by Ms. Grady and seconded by Ms. Leimenstoll, both properties were approved by all for placement on the Study List.

Mr. Morrison noted that the next NRAC meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2013. He adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m. after thanking the committee and staff for their work.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia R. Brown

Survey and National Register Branch Supervisor

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CRB/bhh Attachment

NATIONAL REGISTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Conference Room, Third Floor, Archives and History Building June 13, 2013

Final Agenda

COUNTY PROPERTY/LOCATION PRESENTER

NATIONAL REGISTER

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

Western Region

Buncombe Bruce A. and June L. Elmore Lustron House Annie McDonald

Asheville

Caldwell Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company

Hudson

Central and Southeastern Regions

Catawba Whisnant Hosiery Mill Claudia Brown

Hickory

Lincoln Eureka Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill

Lincolnton

Montgomery Star Historic District

Star

Pender Penderlea Homesteads Historic District

Penderlea

Brunswick Orton Plantation Boundary Increase and

Additional Documentation

Jessica Dockery

Smithville Township

Moore County Hunt Lands and Mile-Away

Farms

Southern Pines vicinity

STUDY LIST

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

Central and Southeastern Regions

Alamance Oneida Cotton Mills Jessica Dockery

Graham

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Columbus

Allen-Love House

Riegelwood vicinity

Moore

Frank Page House

Aberdeen

Robeson

Adam Clark Oliver House

Marietta

Iredell

Robertson Boarding House

Claudia Brown

Annie McDonald

Union Grove

Rowan

Shady Grove Baptist Church

East Spencer

Wake

Owen F. and Dorothy Smith House

Raleigh

Western Region

Ashe County

Osborne-Greer Farm

Lansing vicinity

Buncombe

West Asheville - Aycock School

Historic District Boundary Increase

Asheville